

#### PHYSICAL DOCUMENT

#### LPS-n252979-v1

COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATOR	RY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF	AND CIVIL PENALTIES
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SCANNED/UNASSIGNED - HUMBOLDT BAYKEEPER V. HUMDOLDT

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10	HUMBOLDT BAYKEEPER, a California non-	Civil Case No.:	
11	profit association,	COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY	
12	Plaintiff,	AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND CIVIL PENALTIES	
13	v.	(Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1251 et seg.)	
14	HUMBOLDT SANITATION CO., a California corporation, HUMBOLDT RECYCLING, LLC, a	55 515161 33 1251 51 5041)	
15	California limited liability company,		
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17	Defendants.		
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	Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief and Civil Penalties	1	

# Humboldt Baykeeper ("Baykeeper" or "Plaintiff"), by and through its counsel, hereby alleges:

## I. <u>JURISDICTION AND VENUE</u>

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1. This is a civil suit brought under the citizen suit enforcement provision of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1251 et seq. ("Clean Water Act" or "CWA"). See 33 U.S.C. § 1365. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the parties and this action pursuant to 33 U.S.C. § 1365(a)(1) and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 2201 (an action for declaratory and injunctive relief arising under the Constitution and laws of the United States).

- On September 27, 2016, Baykeeper issued a 60-day notice letter ("Notice Letter") to 2. Humboldt Sanitation Co, and Humboldt Recycling, LLC (collectively "Humboldt Sanitation Recycle" or "Defendants") as Humboldt Sanitation & Recycle, noting the separate business entities and their single registration with the State Water Resources Control Board as Humboldt Sanitation Recycle, Waste Discharger Identification Number 1 121012825. Upon information and belief, these two entities share the same ownership. Both entities have the same President and Agent for Service of Process, and both entities share the same Vice President. The Notice Letter informed Defendants of their violations of California's General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Industrial Activities (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit No. CAS000001, State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order No. 92-12-DWQ, as amended by Order No. 97-03-DWQ) ("1997 Permit") and Order No. 2014-0057-DWQ ("2015 Permit") (collectively, hereinafter referred to as the "Storm Water Permit") and the Clean Water Act at the following waste facility: Humboldt Sanitation Recycle, located at 2585 Central Avenue, in unincorporated McKinleyville, Humboldt County, CA 95519 ("the HSR Facility"). The Notice Letter informed Defendants of Baykeeper's intent to file suit against Defendants to enforce the Storm Water Permit and the Clean Water Act.
- 3. The Notice Letter was sent to the President, Owner, and current registered Agent for Service of Process of Humboldt Sanitation Co. and Humboldt Recycling, LLC, Greg Cain, and separately to the Vice President of Humboldt Sanitation Co. and Humboldt Recycling, LLC, Tasha Eisner, as the owners and operators of the Facility. as required by 40 C.F.R. § 135.2(a)(1). The Notice Letter was also sent to the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency

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("EPA"), the Administrator of EPA Region IX, the Executive Director of the State Water Resources Control Board ("State Board"), and the Executive Officer of the Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region, ("Regional Board") as required by Section 505(b) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(b)(1)(A). The Notice Letter is attached hereto as Exhibit A and is incorporated herein by reference.

- More than sixty (60) days have passed since the Notice Letter was served on the Defendants and the State and Federal agencies. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that neither the EPA nor the State of California has commenced or is diligently prosecuting an action to redress the violations alleged in the Notice Letter and in this complaint. See 33 U.S.C. § 1365(b)(1)(B). This action is not barred by any prior administrative penalty under Section 309(g) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1319(g).
- 5. Venue is proper in the Northern District of California pursuant to Section 505(c)(1) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(c)(1), because the sources of the violations are located within this judicial district.
- 6. Plaintiff also seeks relief from Defendants' violations of the procedural and substantive requirements of Section 301(a) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a).

#### II. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

7. With every rainfall event, hundreds of millions of gallons of polluted rainwater, originating from industrial operations such as the Facility referenced herein, pour into the storm drains and local waterways. The consensus among regulatory agencies and water quality specialists is that stormwater pollution accounts for more than half of the total pollution entering marine and river environments each year. These surface waters, known as Receiving Waters, are ecologically sensitive areas. Although pollution and habitat destruction have drastically diminished once-abundant and varied fisheries, these waters are still essential habitat for dozens of fish and bird species as well as macroinvertebrate and invertebrate species. Stormwater and non-stormwater contain sediment, heavy metals, such as aluminum, iron, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, and zinc, as well as, high concentrations of nitrate and nitrite, and other pollutants. Exposure to polluted stormwater harms the special aesthetic and recreational significance that the surface waters have for people in the surrounding communities. The public's use of the surface waters exposes many people to toxic metals and other

contaminants in stormwater and non-stormwater discharges. Non-contact recreational and aesthetic opportunities, such as wildlife observation, are also impaired by polluted discharges to the Receiving Waters.

- 8. High concentrations of total suspended solids ("TSS") degrade optical water quality by reducing water clarity and decreasing light available to support photosynthesis. TSS has been shown to alter predator-prey relationships (for example, turbid water may make it difficult for fish to hunt prey). Deposited solids alter fish habitat, aquatic plants, and benthic organisms. TSS can also be harmful to aquatic life because numerous pollutants, including metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons ("PAHs"), are absorbed onto TSS. Thus, higher concentrations of TSS result in higher concentrations of toxins associated with those sediments. Inorganic sediments, including settleable matter and suspended solids, have been shown to negatively impact species richness, diversity, and total biomass of filter feeding aquatic organisms on bottom surfaces.
- 9. Stormwater discharged with high pH can damage the gills and skin of aquatic organisms and cause death at levels above 10 standard units. The pH scale is logarithmic and the solubility of a substance varies as a function of the pH of a solution. A one whole unit change in standard units ("s.u.") represents a tenfold increase or decrease in ion concentration. If the pH of water is too high or too low, the aquatic organisms living within it will become stressed or die.
- 10. This complaint seeks a declaratory judgment, injunctive relief, the imposition of civil penalties, and the award of costs, including attorney and expert witness fees, for Defendants' substantive and procedural violations of the Storm Water Permit and the Clean Water Act resulting from Defendants' operations at the HSR Facility.
- 11. Baykeeper specifically alleges violations regarding Defendants' discharge of pollutants from the HSR Facility into waters of the United States; violations of the filing, monitoring and reporting, and best management practice requirements; and violations of other procedural and substantive requirements of the Storm Water Permit and the Clean Water Act, are ongoing and continuous.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The HSR Facility is fully described in Section V below.

#### **PARTIES**

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# III.

#### A. Humboldt Baykeeper

- 12. Plaintiff Humboldt Baykeeper ("Baykeeper" or "plaintiff") is a non-profit association dedicated to safeguarding coastal resources for the health, enjoyment, and economic strength of the Humboldt Bay community through education, scientific research, and enforcement of laws to fight pollution, with a focus on the Humboldt Bay watershed and coastal waters from Trinidad Head to the Eel River, including Widow White Creek and the Mad River, into which Humboldt Sanitation Recycle discharges polluted stormwater and non-stormwater. Baykeeper's office is located at 1385 8th St #228, Arcata, CA 95521.
- 13. Baykeeper has over 1000 members who live and/or recreate in and around the Humboldt Bay watershed and coastal waters. Baykeeper is dedicated to the preservation, protection, and defense of the environment, wildlife, and natural resources of local surface waters. To further these goals, Baykeeper actively seeks federal and state agency implementation of the Clean Water Act and, where necessary, directly initiates enforcement actions on behalf of itself and others.
- Baykeeper's members use and enjoy the waters near the Facility, including Humboldt 14. Bay, to sail or boat, swim, kayak, windsurf, birdwatch, picnic, fish, hike, conduct scientific study and research, and/or for aesthetic enjoyment.
- 15. Defendants' failure to comply with the procedural and substantive requirements of the Storm Water Permit and/or the Clean Water Act, including but not limited to Defendants' discharge of polluted stormwater and non-stormwater from the HSR Facility, negatively impacts and impairs Baykeeper's members' use and enjoyment of these waters.
- 16. The interests of Baykeeper's members have been, are being, and will continue to be adversely affected by Defendants' failure to comply with the Clean Water Act and the Storm Water Permit. The relief sought herein will redress the harms to Plaintiff caused by Defendants' activities.
- 17. Continuing commission of the acts and omissions alleged herein will irreparably harm Baykeeper's members, for which harm they have no plain, speedy, or adequate remedy at law.

# B. The Owners and Operators of the Facility

- 18. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Humboldt Sanitation Co. is a corporation formed under the laws of the State of California. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the registered agent for service of process for Humboldt Sanitation Co. is Gregory Dean Cain, at 2585 Central Avenue., McKinleyville, CA 95519.
- 19. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Humboldt Recycle, LLC is a limited liability corporation formed under the laws of the State of California. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the registered agent for service of process for Humboldt Recycle, LLC is Greg Cain, at 2585 Central Avenue., McKinleyville, CA 95519.
- 20. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Greg Cain, Tasha Eisner, Humboldt Sanitation Co., and Humboldt Recycle, LLC, are owners and/or operators of the Facility.
- 21. Collectively, Baykeeper refers to Gregory Dean Cain, Greg Cain. Tasha Eisner, Humboldt Sanitation Co., and Humboldt Recycle, LLC as "the Owners and/or Operators," defined herein as the owners and/or operators of the Facilities.

## IV. <u>STATUTORY BACKGROUND</u>

#### A. The Clean Water Act

- 22. Section 301(a) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a), prohibits the discharge of any pollutant into waters of the United States unless the discharge complies with various enumerated sections of the CWA. Among other things, Section 301(a) prohibits discharges not authorized by, or in violation of, the terms of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("NPDES") permit issued pursuant to Section 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311(a) and 1342(b).
- 23. Section 402(p) of the CWA establishes a framework for regulating municipal and industrial stormwater discharges under the NPDES program. 33 U.S.C. § 1342(p). States with approved NPDES permit programs are authorized by Section 402(p) to regulate industrial stormwater discharges through individual permits issued to dischargers and/or through the issuance of a single, statewide general permit applicable to all industrial stormwater dischargers. 33 U.S.C. § 1342.
- 24. Section 301(b) of the Clean Water Act requires that, by March 31, 1989, all point source dischargers, including those discharging polluted stormwater, must achieve technology-based effluent

limitations by utilizing Best Available Technology Economically Achievable ("BAT") for toxic and nonconventional pollutants and the Best Conventional Pollutant Control Technology ("BCT") for conventional pollutants. See 33 U.S.C. § 1311(b); 40 C.F.R. § 125.3(a)(2)(ii)-(iii).

- 25. The Clean Water Act requires point source discharges of pollutants to navigable waters be regulated by an NPDES permit. 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a); see 40 C.F.R. § 122.26(c)(1).
- 26. The "discharge of a pollutant" means, among other things, "any addition of any pollutant to navigable waters from any point source." 33 U.S.C. § 1362(12); see 40 C.F.R. § 122.2.
- 27. The term "pollutant" includes "dredged spoil, solid waste, incinerator residue, sewage, garbage, sewage sludge, munitions, chemical wastes, biological materials, radioactive materials, heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand, cellar dirt and industrial, municipal, and agricultural waste discharged into water." 33 U.S.C. § 1362(6); see 40 C.F.R. § 122.2.
- 28. The term "point source" means any "discernible, confined and discrete conveyance, including but not limited to any pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, conduit, well, discrete fissure, container, rolling stock, concentrated animal feeding operation, or vessel or other floating craft, from which pollutants are or may be discharged." 33 U.S.C. § 1362(14); see 40 C.F.R. § 122.2.
  - 29. "Navigable waters" means "the waters of the United States." 33 U.S.C. 1362(7).
- 30. "Waters of the United States" are defined as "navigable waters," and "all waters which are currently used, were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide." 33 U.S.C. § 1362(7).
- 31. The EPA promulgated regulations for the Section 402 NPDES permit program defining "waters of the United States." See 40 C.F.R. § 122.2. The EPA interprets waters of the United States to include not only traditionally navigable waters but also other waters, including waters tributary to navigable waters, wetlands adjacent to navigable waters, and other waters including intermittent streams that could affect interstate commerce.
- 32. The Clean Water Act confers jurisdiction over non-navigable waters that are tributaries to traditionally navigable waters where the non-navigable water at issue has a significant nexus to the navigable water. See Rapanos v. United States, 547 U.S. 715 (2006); see also N. Cal. River Watch v. City of Healdsburg, 496 F.3d 993 (9th Cir. 2007).

- 33. A significant nexus is established if the "[receiving waters], either alone or in combination with similarly situated lands in the region, significantly affect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of other covered waters." *Rapanos*, 547 U.S. at 779; *N. Cal. River Watch*, 496 F.3d at 999-1000.
- 34. A significant nexus is also established if waters that are tributary to navigable waters have flood control properties, including functions such as the reduction of flow, pollutant trapping, and nutrient recycling. *Rapanos*, 547 U.S. at 782; *N. Cal. River Watch*, 496 F.3d at 1000-1001.
- 35. Section 505(a)(1) and Section 505(f) of the Clean Water Act provide for citizen enforcement actions against any "person" who is alleged to be in violation of an "effluent standard or limitation . . . or an order issued by the Administrator or a State with respect to such a standard or limitation." See 33 U.S.C. §§ 1365(a)(i) and 1365(f).
- 36. The Defendants are "person[s]" within the meaning of Section 502(5) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1362(5).
- 37. An action for injunctive relief is authorized under Section 505(a) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(a).
- 38. Each separate violation of the Clean Water Act subjects the violator to a penalty of up to \$37,500 per day, pursuant to Sections 309(d) and 505 of the CWA. See 33 U.S.C. § 1319(d) and 1365(a); Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties for Inflation, 40 C.F.R. § 19.4.
- 39. Section 505(d) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(d), permits prevailing or substantially prevailing parties to recover litigation costs, including attorneys' fees, experts' fees, and consultants' fees.

#### B. California's Storm Water Permit

40. Section 402(b) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342(b), allows each state to administer its own EPA-approved NPDES permit program for regulating the discharge of pollutants, including discharges of polluted stormwater. States with approved NPDES permit programs are authorized by Section 402(b) to regulate industrial stormwater discharges through individual NPDES permits issued to dischargers and/or through the issuance of a statewide general NPDES permit applicable to all industrial stormwater dischargers. See id.

- 41. Pursuant to Section 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1342, the Administrator of the EPA has authorized California to issue NPDES permits, including general NPDES permits. California has designated the State Water Resources Control Board ("State Board") and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards to administer its NPDES program. City of Rancho Cucamonga v. Regional Water Quality Control Bd., 135 Cal. App. 4th 1377, 1380-81 (2006). In California, the State Board is charged with regulating pollutants to protect California's water resources. See Cal. Water Code § 13001.
- 42. The Storm Water Permit is a statewide general NPDES permit issued by the State Board pursuant to Section 402 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1342(b), (p), and 40 C.F.R § 123.25. Violations of the Storm Water Permit are also violations of the CWA. 1997 Permit, Section C(1); 2015 Permit, Section XXI(A).
- 43. Section 303 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1313, requires states to adopt Water Quality Standards, including water quality objectives and beneficial uses for navigable waters of the United States. The CWA prohibits discharges from causing or contributing to a violation of such state Water Quality Standards. See 33 U.S.C. § 1313(b)(1)(c); 40 C.F.R. §§ 122.4(a), (d); 40 C.F.R. §§ 122.44(D)(1).
- 44. The State Board elected to issue a statewide general permit for industrial discharges. The State Board issued the Storm Water Permit on or about November 19, 1991, modified the Storm Water Permit on or about September 17, 1992, and reissued the Storm Water Permit on or about April 17, 1997, pursuant to Section 402(p) of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. § 1342(p).
- 45. On July 1, 2015 the 2015 Permit became effective, and was issued as NPDES No.

  CAS000001 (the same NPDES permit number as the 1997 Permit). The 2015 Permit superseded the

  1997 Permit except for enforcement purposes. The substantive requirements of the 2015 Permit are the same or more stringent than the requirements of 1997 Permit.
- 46. In order to discharge stormwater lawfully in California, industrial dischargers must secure coverage under the Storm Water Permit and comply with its terms, or obtain and comply with an individual NPDES permit. 1997 Permit, p. II-V; 2015 Permit, Section I(A) (Findings 8, 12). Prior to beginning industrial operations, dischargers are required to apply for coverage under the Storm Water Permit by submitting a Notice of Intent to Comply with the Terms of the General Permit to Discharge

 Storm Water Associated with Industrial Activity ("NOI") to the State Board. See 1997 Permit, Provision E(1), Finding 3; 2015 Permit, Section I(A) (Finding 17), Section II(B).

- 47. Section 505(a)(1) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(a)(1), provides for citizen enforcement actions against any "person" who is alleged to be in violation of an "effluent standard or limitation... or an order issued by the Administrator or a State with respect to such a standard or limitation." See 33 U.S.C. §§ 1365(a)(i), 1365(f).
  - C. The Storm Water Permit's Discharge Prohibitions, Effluent Limitations, and Receiving Water Limitations
- 48. The Storm Water Permit contains certain absolute prohibitions. The Storm Water Permit prohibits the direct or indirect discharge of materials other than stormwater ("non-stormwater discharges"), which are not otherwise authorized by an NPDES permit, to the waters of the United States. 1997 Permit, Discharge Prohibition A(1); 2015 Permit, Discharge Prohibition III(B).
- 49. Effluent Limitation (B)(3) of the 1997 Permit and Effluent Limitation V(A) of the 2015 Permit requires dischargers to reduce or prevent pollutants associated with industrial activity in stormwater discharges through the implementation of Best Available Technology Economically Achievable ("BAT") for toxic or non-conventional pollutants, and Best Conventional Pollutant Control Technology ("BCT") for conventional pollutants. Toxic pollutants are listed at 40 C.F.R. § 401.15 and include copper, lead, and zinc, among others. Conventional pollutants are listed at 40 C.F.R. § 401.16 and include biological oxygen demand ("BOD"), TSS, oil and grease ("O&G"), pH, and fecal coliform.
- 50. Discharge Prohibition (A)(2) of the 1997 Permit and Discharge Prohibition III(C) of the 2015 Permit prohibits stormwater discharges that cause or threaten to cause pollution, contamination, or nuisance.
- Management Practices ("BMPs") that constitute BAT and BCT to reduce or eliminate stormwater pollution. 33 U.S.C. § 1311(b); 1997 Permit, Effluent Limitation B(3); 2015 Permit, Effluent Limitation V(A). EPA has developed benchmark levels ("Benchmarks") that are objective guidelines to evaluate whether a permittee's BMPs achieve compliance with the BAT/BCT standards. See Final National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges From

Industrial Activities ("Multi-Sector Permit"), 80 Fed. Reg. 34,403, 34,405 (June 16, 2015); Multi-Sector Permit, 73 Fed. Reg. 56,572, 56,574 (Sept. 29, 2008; Multi-Sector Permit, 65 Fed. Reg. 64,746, 64,766-67 (Oct. 30, 2000).

- 52. The EPA established Parameter Benchmark Values for the following parameters, among others, are as follows: pH 6.0 9.0 standard units "s.u."); TSS 100 mg/L; lead ("Pb") 0.069 mg/L; iron 1.0 mg/L; Chemical Oxygen Demand ("COD") 120 mg/L; aluminum ("Al") 0.75 mg/L; copper ("Cu") 0.0123 mg/L; and zinc 0.13 mg/L. The 2015 Permit contains Numeric Action Levels ("NALs") for these same parameters that generally mirror the Benchmark Values.
- 53. The 2015 Permit includes NALs. 2015 Permit, Section I(M) (Finding 62). During the public commenting period, the State Board stated that "NALs are not designed or intended to function as numeric technology-based effluent limitations." State Board 2012 Draft Industrial General Permit Response to Comments, Response #6 to Comment #12; see also 2015 Permit Section I(M) (Finding 63).
- 54. Receiving Water Limitation C(1) of the 1997 Permit and Receiving Water Limitation VI(B) of the 2015 Permit prohibit stormwater discharges from adversely impacting human health or the environment.
- 55. Discharges with pollutant levels that exceed levels known to adversely impact aquatic species and the environment are violations of the Storm Water Permit's Receiving Water Limitation.
- 56. Receiving Water Limitation C(2) of the 1997 Permit and Receiving Water Limitation VI(A) of the 2015 Permit prohibit stormwater discharges that cause or contribute to an exceedance of any "applicable Water Quality Standard in a Statewide Water Quality Control Plan or the applicable Regional Board's Basin Plan."
- 57. Water Quality Standards ("WQS") are pollutant concentration levels determined by the State Board, the various regional boards, and the EPA to be protective of the beneficial uses of the waters that receive polluted discharges.
- 58. The State of California regulates water quality through the State Board and the nine Regional Boards. Each Regional Board maintains a separate Water Quality Control Plan which contains WQS for water bodies within its geographic area.

- The State Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (May 2011), has issued the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region ("the Basin Plan") to establish water quality objectives, implementation plans for point and non-point source discharges, prohibitions, and to further statewide plans and policies. The Basin Plan provides that "[t]he pH shall not be depressed below 6.5 nor raised above 8.5." The Basin Plan also provides that "[a]ll waters shall be maintained free of toxic substances in concentrations that are lethal to or that produce other detrimental responses in aquatic organisms." The Basin Plan also establishes that the dissolved oxygen levels of the stretch of the Mad River, to which the Facility's discharges flow from Widow White Creek following discharge from the facility, may not be depressed below 7.0 mg/L. Basin Plan, Table 3-1. The Basin Plan sets forth water quality objectives for dissolved metals, such as arsenic, zinc, copper, lead, and mercury. *Id.*, Table 3.2. The Basin Plan also states that the waters shall not receive sediment, settleable materials, or suspended materials that cause nuisance or adversely affect the waters' beneficial uses. *Id.*
- 60. While the Basin Plan does not specify beneficial uses for Widow White Creek, it does identify present and potential beneficial uses for the Mad River, including but not limited to the following existing beneficial uses for Mad River: municipal water supply, agricultural supply, industrial service supply, estuarine habitat, freshwater replenishment, groundwater recharge, navigation, hydropower generation, commercial and sport fishing, wildlife habitat, cold freshwater habitat, spawning, migration, aquaculture, shellfish harvesting, Native American culture, and contact and noncontact water recreation.
- 61. Surface waters that cannot support the Beneficial Uses of those waters listed in the Basin Plan are designated as impaired water bodies pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. According to the 2010 303(d) List of Impaired Water Bodies the Mad River is listed for the following CWA 303(d) impairments: Turbidity, Sedimentation/Siltation, and Temperature, and Widow White Creek is listed for Indicator Bacteria. Thus, the receiving waters for pollution from the Facility are impaired, and the Defendants' illegal discharges of pollutants above the WQS contributes to the continued impairment of the Mad River's beneficial uses.

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\_issues/programs/tmdl/2010state\_ir\_reports/category4a\_report.shtml & http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\_issues/programs/tmdl/2012state\_ir\_reports/category5\_report.shtml (last accessed on November 14, 2016.)

- 62. In addition, EPA has promulgated WQS for toxic priority pollutants in all California water bodies ("California Toxics Rule" or "CTR"), which apply to the Receiving Waters, unless expressly superseded by the Basin Plan. 65 Fed. Reg. 31,682 (May 18, 2000); 40 C.F.R. § 131.38.
- 63. The CTR sets forth lower numeric limits for zinc and other pollutants; CTR criteria can be as low as 0.067 mg/L for zinc in freshwater surface waters with water hardness calculation of 50 mg/L.<sup>3</sup>
- 64. The CTR includes further numeric criteria set to protect human health and the environment in the State of California. See Establishment of Numeric Criteria for Priority Toxic Pollutants for the State of California Factsheet, EPA-823-00-008 (April 2000), available at: https://www.epa.gov/wqs-tech/water-quality-standards-establishment-numeric-criteria-priority-toxic-pollutants-state.
- 65. Discharges with pollutant levels in excess of the CTR criteria, the Basin Plan, and/or other applicable WQS are violations of Receiving Water Limitation C(2) of the 1997 Permit and Section VI(A) of the 2015 Permit.
  - D. The Storm Water Permit's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan Requirements
- 66. Dischargers must develop and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan ("SWPPP") at the time industrial activities begin. 1997 Permit, Section A(1)(a) and E(2); 2015 Permit, Sections I(I) (Finding 54), X(B). The SWPPP must identify and evaluate sources of pollutants associated with industrial activities that may affect the quality of stormwater and authorized non-stormwater discharges from the facility. 1997 Permit, Section A(2); 2015 Permit, Section X(G). The SWPPP must identify and evaluate sources of pollutants associated with industrial activities that may affect the quality of stormwater and authorized non-stormwater discharges from the facility. 1997 Permit, Section A(2); 2015 Permit, Section X(G). The SWPPP must identify and implement site-specific BMPs to reduce or prevent pollutants associated with industrial activities in stormwater and authorized non-stormwater discharges. 1997 Permit, Section A(2); 2015 Permit, Section X(H). The SWPPP must include BMPs that

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The CTR numeric limits, or "criteria," are expressed as dissolved metal concentrations in the CTR, but the Storm Water Permit required permittees to report their sample results as total metal concentrations. See 1997 Permit § B(10)(b); 2015 Permit, Attachment H at 18.

achieve pollutant discharge reductions attainable via BAT and BCT. 1997 Permit, Order Section A(2);
2015 Permit, Section I(D) (Finding 32), Section X(C).
67. The SWPPP must include: a narrative description and summary of all industrial activity,

- potential sources of pollutants, and potential pollutants; a site map indicating the stormwater conveyance system, associated points of discharge, direction of flow, areas of actual and potential pollutant contact, including the extent of pollution-generating activities, nearby water bodies, and pollutants control measures; a description of stormwater management practices; a description of the BMPs to be implemented to reduce or prevent pollutants in stormwater discharges and authorized non-stormwater discharges; the identification and elimination of non-stormwater discharges; the location where significant materials are being shipped, stored, received, and handled, as well as the typical quantities of such materials and the frequency with which they are handled; a description of dust and particulate-generating activities; and a description of individuals and their current responsibilities for developing and implementing the SWPPP. 1997 Permit, Section A(1)-(10); 2015 Permit, Section X.
- 68. The objectives of the SWPPP are to identify and evaluate sources of pollutants associated with industrial activities that may affect the quality of storm water discharges, to identify and implement site-specific BMPs to prevent the exposure of pollutants to stormwater, and to reduce or prevent the discharge of polluted stormwater from industrial Facilities. 1997 Permit, Section A(2); 2015 Permit, Section X.
- 69. The Storm Water Permit requires the discharger to evaluate the SWPPP on an annual basis and revise it as necessary to ensure compliance with the Storm Water Permit. 1997 Permit, Section A(9); 2015 Permit, Section X(A)(9). The Storm Water Permit also requires that the discharger conduct an annual comprehensive site compliance evaluation that includes a review of all visual observation records, inspection reports, and sampling and analysis results, a visual inspection of all potential pollutant sources for evidence of, or the potential for, pollutants entering the drainage system, a review and evaluation of all BMPs to determine whether the BMPs are adequate, properly implemented and maintained, or whether additional BMPs are needed, and a visual inspection of equipment needed to implement the SWPPP. 1997 Permit, Sections A(9)(a)-(c); 2015 Permit, Section XV.

- 70. Section A(9)(d) of the 1997 Permit requires that the discharger submit an evaluation report that includes an identification of personnel performing the evaluation, the date(s) of the evaluation(s), necessary SWPPP revisions, a schedule for implementing SWPPP revisions, any incidents of non-compliance and the corrective actions taken, and a certification that the discharger is in compliance with the Storm Water Permit. Storm Water Permit, Section A(9)(d)(i)-(vi). If certification of compliance cannot be provided, the discharger must explain in the evaluation report why the facility is not in compliance with the Storm Water Permit. *Id.*, Section A(9)(d). The evaluation report shall be submitted as part of the Annual Report specified in Section B(14) of the Storm Water Permit. *Id.*
- 71. The SWPPP and site maps must be assessed annually and revised as necessary to ensure accuracy and effectiveness. 1997 Permit, Sections A(1), B(3)-(4); 2015 Permit, Sections I(J) (Finding 55), X(B)(1).
  - E. The Storm Water Permit's Monitoring and Reporting Requirements
- 72. The 1997 Permit required facility operators to develop and implement a monitoring and reporting plan ("M&RP") when industrial activities begin at a facility. 1997 Permit, Sections B(1)-(2) and E(3). The M&RP must have ensured that stormwater discharges are in compliance with the Discharge Prohibitions, Effluent Limitations, and Receiving Water Limitations specified in the 1997 Permit. *Id.* at Section B(2). The M&RP must have ensured that practices at the facility to prevent or reduce pollutants in stormwater and authorized non-stormwater discharges are evaluated and revised to meet changing conditions at the facility, including revision of the SWPPP. *Id.*
- 73. The objectives of the M&RP are to ensure that BMPs have been adequately developed and implemented, revised if necessary, and to ensure that stormwater and non-stormwater discharges are in compliance with the Storm Water Permit's Discharge Prohibitions, Effluent Limitations, and Receiving Water Limitations. 1997 Permit, Sections B(2)(a) and B(2)(b); 2015 Permit, Section XI.
- 74. The M&RP aids in the implementation and revision of the SWPPP and measures the effectiveness of BMPs to prevent or reduce pollutants in stormwater discharges. *Id.*, 1997 Permit Section B(2)(c) and B(2)(d).

- 75. The 2015 Permit requires facility operators to monitor and sample stormwater discharges to ensure that the facility is complying with the terms of the permit. 2015 Permit, Sections I(J) (Findings 55-56) and XI.
- 76. Section B(2)(d) of the 1997 Permit and Section X1(A)(4) of the 2015 Permit require that the M&RP shall be revised as necessary to ensure compliance with the Storm Water Permit.
- 77. Section B(4)(a) of the 1997 Permit and Section XI(A) of the 2015 Permit require dischargers to conduct monthly visual observations of stormwater discharges.
- 78. Section B(4)(c) of the 1997 Permit and Section XI(A)(2) of the 2015 Permit requires dischargers to document the presence of any floating and suspended materials, O&G, discolorations, turbidity, or odor in the discharge, and the source of any pollutants in stormwater discharges from the facility. Dischargers are required to maintain records of observations, observation dates, discharge locations observed, and responses taken to reduce or prevent pollutants from contacting stormwater discharges. See 1997 Permit, Section B(4)(c); 2015 Permit, Section XI(A)(3). The Storm Water Permit also requires dischargers to revise the SWPPP as necessary to ensure that BMPs are effectively reducing and/or eliminating pollutants at the facility. 1997 Permit, Section B(4)(c); 2015 Permit, Section X(B)(1).
- 79. The Storm Water Permit requires dischargers to visually observe and collect samples of stormwater discharges from all locations where stormwater is discharged. 1997 Permit, Sections B(5) and B(7); 2015 Permit Section XI(B)(4).
- 80. Section B(5)(a) of the 1997 Permit requires dischargers to collect stormwater samples during the first hour of discharge from the first storm event of the Wet Season and at least one other storm event in the Wet Season. All stormwater discharge locations must be sampled. Facility operators that do not collect samples from the first storm event of the Wet Season are still required to collect samples from two other storm events of the Wet Season and must explain in the Annual Report why the first storm event was not sampled.
- 81. Section B(5)(b) of the 1997 Permit requires that sampling conducted pursuant to the Storm Water Permit occur during scheduled facility operating hours that are preceded by at least three (3) working days without stormwater discharge.

- 82. Section B(5)(c)(i) of the 1997 Permit requires dischargers to analyze each sample for pH, specific conductance ("SC"), TSS, and TOC. A discharger may substitute analysis for O&G instead of TOC.
- 83. Section B(5)(c)(ii) of the 1997 Permit requires dischargers to analyze each sample for toxic chemicals and other pollutants likely to be present in significant quantities in the stormwater discharged from the facility.
- 84. Section B(5)(c)(iii) and Table D of the 1997 Permit, require Facilities classified as Standard Industrial Classification ("SIC") code 5093, such as the HSR Facility, to also analyze stormwater samples for chemical oxygen demand ("COD"), iron ("Fe"), zinc ("Zn"), aluminum ("Al"), copper ("Cu") and lead ("Pb"). 1997 General Permit, Table D; 2015 General Permit Tables 1-2.
- 85. Section B(5)(c)(iii) and Table D of the 1997 Permit, require Facilities classified as Standard Industrial Classification ("SIC") code 4953, such as the HSR Facility, to also analyze stormwater samples for iron ("Fe"). 1997 General Permit, Table D; 2015 General Permit Tables 1-2.
- 86. Section B(14) of the 1997 Permit requires that dischargers submit an Annual Report to the applicable Regional Board by July 1 of each year. The Annual Report must include a summary of visual observations and sampling results, an evaluation of the visual observations and sampling and analysis results, laboratory reports, the annual comprehensive site compliance evaluation report specified in Section A(9), an explanation of why a facility did not implement any activities required, and the records specified in Section B(13)(i).
- 87. Section B(15)(f) of the 1997 Permit requires that sampling and analysis be performed according to Section B of the 1997 Permit.
- 88. Section X1(B)(1) of the 2015 Permit requires sampling if a precipitation event produces a discharge for at least one drainage area, and it is preceded by forty-eight (48) hours with no discharge from any drainage area ("Qualifying Storm Event" or "QSE").
- 89. Section XI(B)(2) of the 2015 Permit requires dischargers to collect and analyze stormwater samples from two (2) QSEs within the first half of each reporting year (July 1 to December 31), and two (2) QSEs within the second half of each reporting year (January 1 to June 30).

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- 90. Section XI(B)(6) of the 2015 Permit requires dischargers to analyze stormwater samples for TSS, O&G, pH, additional parameters identified by the discharger on a facility-specific basis that serve as indicators of the presence of all industrial pollutants identified in the pollutant source assessment, additional applicable industrial parameters related to receiving waters with 303(d) listed impairments or approved TMDLs, and additional parameters required by the Regional Water Board.
- 91. Table 1 of the 2015 Permit requires Facility under SIC code 5093, such as the HSR Facility, to analyze stormwater samples for iron, lead, aluminum, zinc and COD. 2015 General Permit Tables 1-2. The HSR Facility's June 2015 SWPPPs also requires testing for Copper ("Cu"), with reference in the SWPPP to SIC Code 5093.
- 92. Section XVI of the 2015 Permit requires dischargers to submit an annual report with a Compliance Checklist that indicates whether a Discharger complies with, and has addressed all applicable requirements of this General Permit, an explanation for any non-compliance of requirements within the reporting year, as indicated in the Compliance Checklist, an identification, including page numbers and/or Sections, of all revisions made to the SWPPP within the reporting year, and the date(s) of the Annual Evaluation.

#### V. STATEMENT OF FACTS

- The Humboldt Sanitation Recycle Facility Site Description A.
- 93. The HSR Facility is located at to 2585 Central Avenue, in unincorporated McKinleyville, Humboldt County, CA 95519. The Facility is an approximately 7-acre Scrap and Waste Materials facility consisting of industrial buildings, including waste materials transfer station, a metals recovery facility, offices and maintenance shops and areas, parking areas for customers, employees, and a fleet of waste trucks and trailers, bailing shed, a loading dock and ramp, for receiving, sorting, baling and transferring waste, ferrous and non-ferrous scrap metal and recyclable materials, an electronic waste area storage area and separate electronic waste processing area, used tire area, a battery and antifreeze waste storage area, a hazardous materials locker, a green waste area, areas for waste bins and carts, bone vards, truck and equipment repair and cleaning areas, and a commercial truck scale. The industrial activities of the HSR Facility fall under Standard Industrial Classification ("SIC") Code 5093 - Scrap and Waste Metals, and 4953 - Landfills and Land Application Facilities.

94. Industrial operations and activities taking place at the HSR Facility include but are not limited to: receiving, handling and transferring of municipal solid waste, construction & demolition debris and green waste; public drop-off of recyclables, electronic waste, scrap metal, appliances, used motor oil & oil filters, construction and demolition debris, used antifreeze, kitchen grease, tires and batteries; storage of recycled landscape products (wood chips, compost); temporary storage of household hazardous waste; re-use areas; equipment and vehicle repair and washing; and California Redemption Value buyback (individuals trading recyclables for money). Large-haul waste is received at the site and materials are sorted. Tires are accepted. Public drop-off boxes and areas are located at the HSR Facility, and drop-offs include, aluminum, glass and glass bottles, scrap metal, and electronic waste. Hazardous household waste is accepted on a continuous basis into a designated area.

- 95. The HSR Facility collects and discharges polluted stormwater associated with industrial activities pursuant to the General Permit through at least one discharge point, which flows into Widow White Creek, a tributary to the Mad River. Widow White Creek and the Mad River are waters of the United States within the meaning of the CWA. Upon information and belief, there are other locations at the HSR Facility discharging stormwater associated with industrial activities, namely from borders and other runoff areas of the HSR Facility. These discharges also enter the Widow White Creek. The HSR Facility SWPPP lacks enough detail to identify stormwater flow patterns, discharge and drainage plans or infrastructure, or the location of the primary discharge point, listed in publicly available materials as "Outflow Pipe."
- 96. Information available to Baykeeper suggests that the HSR Facility discharges quantities of unauthorized non-stormwater. Activities at the HSR Facility resulting in unauthorized non-stormwater discharges include but are not limited to, truck and cart washing, fluids from dumping or unloading waste, recycling and other material, fueling, replenishing fluid levels and using equipment with hydraulic oil, and cleaning/flushing of storm drains and inlets.
- 97. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the HSR Facility's areas described herein, lack adequate cover or secondary containment, and certain industrial activities occur outside without adequate cover or secondary containment, resulting in discharges of polluted stormwater. Vehicle and other traffic at the HSR Facility track dust and particulate matter, increasing the

miles of coastal hills within Humboldt County. Mountain range elevations are from 6,000 feet at the

headwaters to 3,000 feet along the western ridge. The Mad River flows through, around and over a

variety of Franciscan bedrock geology, composed of greywacke sandstone, limestone, serpentinite,

shale, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks. Surrounding vegetation is composed of coniferous forest

(Douglas Fir, Spruce, and Redwood) toward the coast, while upland and interior are mixed hardwood

forest, grassland, and in some areas riparian canopy. The Mad River watershed is partitioned into three

sub-watersheds: The Upper Mad River begins at the upper headwaters and concludes at Matthews Dam

on Ruth Lake; the Middle Mad River extends from Matthews Dam downstream to the confluence of

Cowen Creek; and the Lower Mad River runs from Cowen Creek through the estuary and to the mouth

where the Mad River empties into the Pacific Ocean. The Mad River estuary is recognized for protection

County's Population. The Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District (HBMWD) formed on March 19,

1956, and is currently supplying drinking water to 80,000 Humboldt County residents in the cities of

within the riparian corridor from the headwaters to the estuary. A number of species listed as threatened

or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, live in and around the Mad River, including but not

western spotted owl, and the yellow billed cuco. Sensitive amphibians also reside in the Mad River such

limited to: chinook, coho and steelhead salmonids, eulachon and longfin smelt, willow fly catcher,

Blue Lake, Arcata, Eureka, and the unincorporated areas of McKinleyville, Fieldbrook, Glendale,

The Mad River is the source of drinking water for approximately 65% of Humboldt

The Mad River Watershed provides habitat to a wide array of flora and fauna surviving

The Mad River watershed is approximately 100 miles long and drains about 500 square

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discharge of polluted water, sediments and debris into waters of the United States.

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The Mad River

by the California Bays and Estuaries Policy.4

Manila, and other rural residential areas within the county 5

as the northern red legged frog and the western pond turtle.6

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California 11/16/95 5 Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District, Habitat Conservation Plan

6 http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water\_issues/programs/tmdls/mad\_river/pdf/120329/FINAL\_PDF\_MRWA.PDF (last accessed November 14, 2016).

Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief and Civil Penalties

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Water Quality Control Policy For The Enclosed Bays and Estuaries of California as Adopted by Resolution. 95-84, State of

## D. The HSR Facility Storm Water Permit Coverage

- 101. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the Owners and/or Operators of the HSR Facility submitted an NOI for coverage under the 1997 Permit.
- 102. Baykeeper is not currently in possession of NOI or a SWPPP submitted prior to 2015, to cover the HSR Facility, but Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the Owners and/or Operators previously submitted NOI(s) for coverage under the 1997 Permit. Further information about coverage under the 1997 permit will be sought in discovery.
- 103. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the Owners and/or Operators of recently submitted an NOI for their industrial operations at the HSR Facility on or about May 19, 2015, for coverage under the 2015 Permit.
- 104. The State Board's electronic database, called the Storm Water Multiple Application & Report Tracking System ("SMARTS"), lists the current HSR Facility Waste Discharge Identification ("WDID") number as 1 12I012825. SMARTS lists the HSR Facility's coverage under the Storm Water Permit as "Active."
- 105. The NOI for the HSR Facility identifies the receiving water for discharges and runoff from the HSR Facility to be Widow White Creek.
- 106. Via search of the SMARTS database, Baykeeper obtained a SWPPP for the HSR Facility dated June 2015 ("HSR Facility SWPPP").
- 107. BAYKEEPER is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the Facility' SWPPPs fail to describe and/or adequately describe all of the Facility industrial activities or processes.
- 108. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that because the HSR Facility's SWPPP fails to describe and/or adequately describe all of the HSR Facility industrial activities, the HSR Facility's SWPPP also fails to describe and/or adequately describe all of the significant materials and processes that are related to the HSR Facility's industrial activities.
- 109. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that pollutants associated with the HSR Facility include, but are not limited to: pH-affecting substances; metals, such as iron and aluminum; toxic metals, such as lead, zinc, cadmium, chromium, copper, arsenic, and mercury; chemical oxygen demand ("COD"); BOD; TSS; benzene; pesticides; gasoline and diesel fuels; TKN, trash;

fugitive and other dust and dirt; and O&G.

28 117. Baykeeper is informed and believe Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief

110. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that without properly identifying all industrial activities or all significant materials at the HSR Facility in the SWPPP, the

Owners and/or Operators have not developed and/or implemented all appropriate BMPs.

111. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the HSR Facility SWPPP includes no assessments and/or no adequate assessments of potential pollutant sources, the associated pollutants, and the corresponding BMPs at the Facility.

- 112. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the HSR Facility SWPPP includes no description and/or no adequate description of the HSR Facility BMPs, analyses of the effectiveness of the BMPs, or summaries of the BMPs by pollutant source.
- 113. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Owners and/or Operators have failed and continue to fail to develop the HSR Facility SWPPP and site-specific BMPs consistent with Section A of the 1997 Permit, and Section X of the 2015 Permit.
- 114. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants' HSR Facility SWPPP fails and continues to fail to include an adequate: (1) list of significant materials handled and stored at the site; (2) description of potential pollutant sources including industrial processes, material handling and stockpiling areas, dust and particulate generating activities; (3) description of significant spills and leaks; or (4) list of all non-stormwater discharges and their sources; Section A of the 1997 Permit and Section X of the 2015 Permit.
- 115. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that stormwater sampling at the HSR Facility demonstrate that HSR Facility's stormwater discharges contain concentrations of pollutants above the Benchmark Levels, including but not limited to aluminum, copper, iron, zinc, COD, and TSS.
- 116. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the repeated and significant exceedances of Benchmark Levels demonstrate that the Owners and/or Operators have failed and continue to fail to develop and/or implement BMPs to prevent the exposure of pollutants to stormwater and to prevent discharges of polluted stormwater and non-stormwater from the HSR Facility.
  - 117. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the Owners and/or

Operators have failed and continue to fail to adequately revise the HSR Facility SWPPP, despite repeated and significant concentrations of pollutants in the HSR Facility's stormwater discharges, make changes to the HSR Facility's training programs, or make any other changes based upon events that would signal a need for required revisions or alteration of practices.

- 118. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that some of the HSR Facility's industrial operations are conducted outdoors without secondary containment or other measures to prevent polluted stormwater from discharging from the HSR Facility.
- 119. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that pollutants, including but not limited to those referenced herein, have been and continue to be tracked throughout the HSR Facility's operation areas and offsite.
- 120. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that these pollutants are deposited into water bodies, and onto streets and/or into storm drains adjacent to the HSR Facility via fugitive dust and other means, including but not limited to dust generated by wind, equipment and vehicles.
- 121. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that trucks and vehicles leaving the HSR Facility via staging areas and driveways are pollutant sources tracking sediment, dirt, oil and grease, pesticides, metal particulates, and other pollutants off-site.
- 122. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the Owners' and/or Operators' failure to properly address pollutant sources and pollutants results in the exposure of pollutants associated with their industrial activities to precipitation, and that this results in discharges of polluted stormwater from the HSR Facility and into local waterways in violation of the Storm Water Permit and/or the Clean Water Act.
- 123. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that BAT/BCT for the HSR Facility is full enclosure of all uncovered bulk material stockpiles, and industrial operations that cause the spread and release of pollutants, and cleanup of any waste materials, and unused, broken, or legacy equipment at the HSR Facility.
- 124. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants have failed to achieve compliance with BAT/BCT requirements by failing to fully enclose bulk material stockpiles,

waste materials, industrial operations that cause the spread and release of pollutants, and unused, broken or legacy equipment.

- 125. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the Owners' and/or Operators' failure to properly address these pollutants and their sources results in the exposure of pollutants to precipitation, which carries these pollutants with stormwater flows from the HSR Facility into Widow White Creek and the Mad River.
- 126. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants' failure to properly address these pollutants and their sources results in the discharge of fugitive dust, including but not limited to dust generated by industrial operations, wind, equipment, and vehicles, which carries these pollutants to off-site waterbodies, and to off-site properties, streets and storm drains adjacent to the Facility. Pollutants deposited off-site eventually flow into the Widow White Creek and the Mad River.

#### E. Stormwater Discharges at the HSR Facility

- 127. The Owners and/or Operators represent that there is only one (1) discharge point at the HSR Facility, called the Outflow Pipe. Information obtained from SMARTS lists Outflow Pipe as the only sampling point tested in submitted laboratory sampling and testing reports. The HSR Facility SWPPP provides no other discernable information regarding stormwater flow, stormwater collection inlets, sampling points, or stormwater discharge points. Upon information and belief, the HSR Facility NOI is the only document currently available on SMARTS identifying the stormwater discharge Receiving Water as Widow White Creek.
  - F. The HSR Facility's Stormwater Discharges to the Receiving Waters Contain Elevated Levels of Pollutants
- 128. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that pollutants from the HSR Facility discharge from more than one discharge point into Widow White Creek and the Mad River.
- 129. The EPA promulgated regulations for the Section 402 NPDES permit program defining waters of the United States. See 40 C.F.R. § 122.2. The EPA interprets waters of the United States to include not only traditionally navigable waters but also other waters, including waters tributary to navigable waters, wetlands adjacent to navigable waters, and other waters including intermittent streams that could affect interstate commerce. The CWA requires any person who discharges or proposes to

discharge pollutants into waters of the United States to submit an NPDES permit application. 40 C.F.R. § 122.21.

- 130. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, Widow White Creek and the Mad River, the Receiving Waters herein, are waters of the United States, and/or a tributary to a traditionally navigable water.
- 131. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that polluted stormwater and non-stormwater discharges from the HSR Facility to the Receiving Waters.
- 132. Stormwater discharges containing pollutants, including but not limited to, heavy metals such as zinc, aluminum, and iron adversely affect the aquatic environment.
- 133. Samples of stormwater discharges collected at the Facility contain pollutants including zinc, iron, aluminum, copper, and COD, in excess of levels known to adversely impact aquatic species and the environment, federal regulations, WQS, EPA Benchmarks, and the CTR in violation of the Storm Water Permit's Effluent Limitations and Receiving Water Limitations.
- 134. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that during and/or after every significant rain event<sup>7</sup> or any other stormwater or non-stormwater discharge that has occurred at the Facility since September 27, 2011 through the present, Defendants have discharged and continue to discharge stormwater and non-stormwater from the HSR Facility that contains concentrations of pollutants at levels that violate the prohibitions and limitations set forth in the Storm Water Permit, the Federal Effluent Limitations, the EPA Benchmarks, CTR, and the WQS.
  - G. Defendants' Failure to Comply with the Storm Water Permit's Sampling, Reporting, and Monitoring Requirements
- 135. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants failed and continue to fail to develop an adequate M&RP for industrial operations at the HSR Facility that complies with Section B of the 1997 Permit, and Section XI of the 2105 Permit.
- 136. September 27, 2011 is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants failed and continue to fail to revise the M&RP for the HSR Facility as necessary to ensure compliance with the 1997 Permit, in violation of Section B(2)(d), and Section XI of the 2105 Permit.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> A significant rain event is an event that produces stormwater runoff, which according to EPA occurs with more than 0.1 inches of precipitation.

- 137. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants have failed and continue to fail to collect samples during the first hour of the first storm event of the Wet Season over the past five years, in violation of Section B(5)(a) of the 1997 Permit and Section XI(B) of the 2015 Permit.
- 138. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants failed and continue to fail to analyze stormwater samples collected at the HSR Facility for all toxic chemicals and other pollutants likely to be present in significant quantities in the stormwater discharges, in violation of Section B(5) of the 1997 Permit and Section XI(B) of the 2015 Permit.
- 139. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants have failed and continue to fail to demonstrate that stormwater sampling limited to those listed in the HSR Facility's 2015 SWPPP, is representative of pollutants from the HSR Facility, in violation of Section B(5) of the 1997 Permit and Section XI(B) of the 2015 Permit.
- 140. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants have failed and continue to fail to sample stormwater discharges from all discharge locations, in violation of Section B(7) of the 1997 Permit and Sections XI(B) and XI(C) of the 2015 Permit.
- 141. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants failed and continue to fail to adequately revise the M&RP for the HSR Facility as necessary to ensure compliance with the Storm Water Permit in violation of Sections A(9) and A(10) of 1997 Permit and Sections XI(B) and XI(C) of the 2015 Permit.
- 142. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the Owners and/or Operators of the HSR Facility consistently fail to perform visual observations of stormwater during QSEs.
- 143. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the Owners and/or Operators of the HSR Facility have consistently failed and continue to fail to report any noncompliance with the Storm Water Permit at the time that the Annual Report is submitted, including: 1) a description of the noncompliance and its cause, 2) the period of noncompliance, 3) if the noncompliance has not been corrected, the anticipated time it is expected to continue, and 4) steps taken or planned to reduce and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance as required by the 1997 Permit, Section C(11)(d).

- 144. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants' certifications of compliance with the 1997 Permit in each of its past five (5) Annual Reports, provided the Annual Reports were in fact submitted, were erroneous because Defendants have not developed and/or implemented the required BMPs, or revised the SWPPP or the M&RP, as required by Sections A and B of the 1997 Permit.
- 145. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the Owners and/or Operators of the HSR Facility consistently fail to collect stormwater samples during QSEs.
- 146. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants have failed to submit complete Annual Reports to the Regional Board in violation of Section B(14) of the 1997 Permit.

### VI. <u>CLAIMS FOR RELIEF</u>

#### FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Discharges of Contaminated Stormwater in Violation of the Storm Water Permit's Effluent Limitations and the Clean Water Act. 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311(a), 1342, 1365(a) and 1365(f)

- 147. Baykeeper incorporates the allegations contained in the above paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 148. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants failed and continue to fail to reduce or prevent pollutants associated with industrial activities at the HSR Facility from discharging from the Facility through implementation of BMPs that achieve BAT/BCT.
- 149. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that discharges of stormwater containing levels of pollutants that do not achieve compliance with BAT/BCT standards from the HSR Facility occur every time stormwater discharges from the HSR Facility. Defendants' failure to develop and/or implement BMPs that achieve the pollutant discharge reductions attainable via BAT or BCT at the HSR Facility is a violation of the Storm Water Permit and the CWA. See 1997 Permit, Effluent Limitation B(3); 2015 Permit, Section I(D) (Finding 32), Effluent Limitation V(A); 33 U.S.C. § 1311(b).
- 150. The Owners and/or Operators violate and will continue to violate the Storm Water Permit's Effluent Limitations each and every time stormwater containing levels of pollutants that do not achieve BAT/BCT standards discharges from the HSR Facility.

Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief and Civil Penalties

- 151. BAYKEEPER is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the Owners' and/or Operators' violations of Effluent Limitations of the Storm Water Permit and the Clean Water Act are ongoing and continuous.
- 152. Each day since at least September 27, 2011 that the Owners and/or Operators discharge stormwater containing pollutants in violation of the Storm Water Permit is a separate and distinct violation of Section 301(a) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a).
- 153. By committing the acts and omissions alleged above, the Owners and/or Operators are subject to an assessment of civil penalties for each and every violation of the CWA occurring from December 6, 2011 to the present, pursuant to Sections 309(d) and 505 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1319(d), 1365, and 40 C.F.R. § 19.4.
- 154. An action for injunctive relief is authorized by CWA Section 505(a), 33 U.S.C. § 1365(a). Continuing commission of the acts and omissions alleged above would irreparably harm Plaintiffs and the citizens of the State of California, for which harm Baykeeper has no plain, speedy, or adequate remedy at law.
- 155. An action for declaratory relief is authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 2201(a) because an actual controversy exists as to the rights and other legal relations of the Parties.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants as set forth hereafter.

#### SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Defendants' Discharges of Contaminated Stormwater in Violation of the Storm Water Permit's Receiving Water Limitations and the Clean Water Act. 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311(a), 1342, 1365(a) and 1365(f)

- 156. Baykeeper incorporates the allegations contained in the above paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 157. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that discharges of stormwater containing levels of pollutants that adversely impact human health and/or the environment from the HSR Facility occur each time stormwater discharges from the HSR Facility.
- 158. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that stormwater containing levels of pollutants that cause or contribute to exceedances of water quality standards has discharged and continues to discharge from the HSR Facility each time stormwater discharges from the HSR Facility.

- 159. The Owners and/or Operators violate and will continue to violate the Storm Water Permit's Receiving Water Limitations each and every time stormwater containing levels of pollutants that adversely impact human health and/or the environment, and that cause or contribute to exceedances of WQS, discharges from the HSR Facility.
- 160. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the Owners' and/or Operators' violations of Receiving Water Limitations of the Storm Water Permit and the CWA are ongoing and continuous.
- 161. Each and every violation of the Storm Water Permits' Receiving Water Limitations is a separate and distinct violation of Section 301(a) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a).
- 162. By committing the acts and omissions alleged above, the Owners and/or Operators are subject to an assessment of civil penalties for each and every violation of the CWA occurring from September 27, 2011 to the present, pursuant to Sections 309(d) and 505 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1319(d), 1365, and 40 C.F.R. § 19.4.
- 163. An action for injunctive relief under the Clean Water Act is authorized by Section 505(a), 33 U.S.C. § 1365(a). Continuing commission of the acts and omissions alleged above would irreparably harm Plaintiff's members, and the citizens of the State of California, for which harm they have no plain, speedy, or adequate remedy at law.
- 164. An action for declaratory relief is authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 2201(a) because an actual controversy exists as to the rights and other legal relations of the Parties.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants as set forth hereafter.

#### THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

Defendants' Discharges of Non-Stormwater in Violation of the Storm Water and the Clean Water Act. 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311(a), 1342, 1365(a) and 1365(f)

- 165. Baykeeper incorporates the allegations contained in the above paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 166. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that prohibited non-stormwater discharges have discharged and continue to discharge from the HSR Facility, in violation of the Storm Water Permit and/or CWA Section 301(a), 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a).

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- 167. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the Owners' and/or Operators' violations of Discharge Prohibitions of the Storm Water Permit are ongoing and continuous.
- 168. Each and every violation of the Storm Water Permit's Discharge Prohibitions is a separate and distinct violation of Section 301(a) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1311(a).
- 169. By committing the acts and omissions alleged above, the Owners and/or Operators are subject to an assessment of civil penalties for each and every violation of the CWA occurring from September 27, 2011 to the present, pursuant to Sections 309(d) and 505 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1319(d), 1365, and 40 C.F.R. § 19.4.
- 170. An action for injunctive relief under the CWA is authorized by 33 U.S.C. § 1365(a). Continuing commission of the acts and omissions alleged above would irreparably harm Plaintiff, its members, and the citizens of the State of California, for which harm they have no plain, speedy, or adequate remedy at law.
- 171. An action for declaratory relief is authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 2201(a) because an actual controversy exists as to the rights and other legal relations of the Parties.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants as set forth hereafter.

#### **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

Defendants' Failure to Adequately Develop, Implement, and/or Revise a Storm Water Pollutant Prevention Plan in Violation of the Storm Water Permit and the Clean Water Act. 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311(a), 1342, 1365(a) and 1365(f)

- 172. Baykeeper incorporates the allegations contained in the above paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 173. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the Owners and/or Operators have failed and continue to fail to develop an adequate SWPPP for the HSR Facility, in violation of the Storm Water Permit.
- 174. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the Owners and/or Operators have failed and continue to fail to adequately implement a SWPPP for the HSR Facility, in violation of the Storm Water Permit.
- 175. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Owners and/or Operators have failed and continue to fail to adequately revise a SWPPP for the HSR Facility, in violation of the

Storm Water Permit. 1 2 176. The Owners and/or Operators have been in violation of the Storm Water Permit at the 3 Facility every day from September 27, 2011 to the present. 177. The Owners' and/or Operators' violations of the Storm Water Permit and the CWA at the 4 5 HSR Facility are ongoing and continuous. 178. The Owners and/or Operators will continue to be in violation of the Storm Water Permit 6 7 and the CWA each and every day the Owners and/or Operators fail to adequately develop, implement, and/or revise the SWPPP for the HSR Facility. 8 9 179. Each and every violation of the Storm Water Permit's SWPPP requirements at the HSR Facility is a separate and distinct violation of the CWA. 10 180. By committing the acts and omissions alleged above, the Owners and/or Operators are 11 subject to an assessment of civil penalties for each and every violation of the CWA occurring from 12 September 27, 2011 to the present, pursuant to Sections 309(d) and 505 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§ 13 1319(d), 1365, and 40 C.F.R. § 19.4. 14 181. An action for injunctive relief under the CWA is authorized by Section 505(a) of the 15 CWA. 33 U.S.C. § 1365(a). Continuing commission of the acts and omissions alleged above would 16 irreparably harm Baykeeper, its members, and the citizens of the State of California, for which harm 17 18 they have no plain, speedy, or adequate remedy at law. 19 182. An action for declaratory relief is authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 2201(a) because an actual controversy exists as to the rights and other legal relations of the Parties. 20 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants as set forth hereafter. 21 22 FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION Defendants' Failure to Adequately Develop, Implement, and/or 23 Revise a Monitoring and Reporting Plan in Violation of the Storm Water Permit and the Clean Water Act. 24 U.S.C. §§ 1311(a), 1342, 1365(a) and 1365(f) 25 183. 26

U.S.C. §§ 1311(a), 1342, 1365(a) and 1365(f)

183. Baykeeper incorporates the allegations contained in the above paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

184. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the Owners and/or Operators have failed and continue to fail to develop an adequate M&RP for the HSR Facility, in Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief 31 and Civil Penalties

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violation of the Storm Water Permit.

- 185. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the Owners and/or Operators have failed and continue to fail to adequately implement an M&RP for the HSR Facility, in violation of the Storm Water Permit.
- 186. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the Owners and/or Operators have failed and continue to fail to adequately revise an M&RP for the HSR Facility, in violation of the Storm Water Permit.
- 187. The Owners and/or Operators have been in violation of the Storm Water Permit's monitoring requirements at the HSR Facility every day from September 27, 2011 to the present.
- 188. The Owners' and/or Operators' violations of their Storm Water Permit's monitoring requirements and the CWA at the HSR Facility are ongoing and continuous.
- 189. The Owners and/or Operators will continue to be in violation of Section B and Provision E(3) the 1997 Permit, Section XI of the 2015 Permit, and the CWA each and every day they fail to adequately develop, implement, and/or revise an M&RP for the HSR Facility.
- 190. Each and every violation of the Storm Water Permit's M&RP requirements at the HSR Facility is a separate and distinct violation of the CWA.
- 191. By committing the acts and omissions alleged above, the Owners and/or Operators are subject to an assessment of civil penalties for each and every violation of the CWA occurring from September 27, 2011 to the present, pursuant to Sections 309(d) and 505 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1319(d), 1365, and 40 C.F.R. § 19.4.
- 192. An action for injunctive relief under the CWA is authorized by Section 505(a) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. § 1365(a). Continuing commission of the acts and omissions alleged above would irreparably harm Baykeeper, its members, and the citizens of the State of California, for which harm they have no plain, speedy, or adequate remedy at law.
- 193. An action for declaratory relief is authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 2201(a) because an actual controversy exists as to the rights and other legal relations of the Parties.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants as set forth hereafter.

## SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Defendants' Failure to Report as Required by the Storm Water Permit in Violation of the Storm Water Permit and the Clean Water Act.

33 U.S.C. §§ 1311(a), 1342, 1365(a) and 1365(f)

- 194. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations contained in the above paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 195. Receiving Water Limitation C(3) of the 1997 Permit requires a discharger to prepare and submit a report to the Regional Board describing changes it will make to current BMPs in order to prevent or reduce any pollutant in stormwater discharges that is causing or contributing to an exceedance of water quality standards. Once approved by the Regional Board, those BMPs must be implemented into the HSR Facility SWPPP.
- 196. Receiving Water Limitation C(4)(a) of the 1997 Permit requires the report to be submitted to the Regional Board no later than 60-days from the date the discharger first learns its discharge is causing or contributing to an exceedance of an applicable water quality standard. Section C(11)(d) of the Permit's Standard Provisions also requires dischargers to report any noncompliance.
- 197. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the Owners and/or Operators have failed and continue to fail to submit accurate Annual Reports to the Regional Board for the HSR Facility, in violation of Sections B(14), C(9), and C(10) of the 1997 Permit.
- 198. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the Owners' and/or Operators' Annual Reports for the HSR Facility failed and continue to fail to meet the monitoring and reporting requirements of the Storm Water Permit, in violation of Section B(14) of the 1997 Permit.
- 199. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that the Owners and/or Operators have failed and continue to fail to submit complete Annual Reports for the HSR Facility to the Regional Board, in violation of Sections B(14), C(9), C(10) and C(11) of the 1997 Permit.
- 200. The Owners and/or Operators have been in violation of Sections B(14), C(9), C(10), and/or C(11) of the 1997 Permit and CWA every day since at least September 27, 2011.
- 201. The Owners and/or Operators have been in violation of the reporting requirements of the Storm Water Permit each day it has operated the HSR Facility without reporting as required by Receiving Water Limitations C(3) and C(4) of the 1997 Permit.

- 202. The Owners and/or Operators have been in violation of Receiving Water Limitations C(3) and C(4) of the Storm Water Permit every day since at least September 27, 2011.
- 203. The Owners' and/or Operators' violations of the reporting requirements of the Storm Water Permit and the CWA are ongoing and continuous.
- 204. By committing the acts and omissions alleged above, the Owners and/or Operators are subject to an assessment of civil penalties for each and every violation of the CWA occurring from September 27, 2011 to the present, pursuant to Sections 309(d) and 505 of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1319(d), 1365, and 40 C.F.R. § 19.4.
- 205. An action for injunctive relief under the CWA is authorized by Section 505(a) of the CWA. 33 U.S.C. § 1365(a). Continuing commission of the acts and omissions alleged above would irreparably harm Baykeeper, its members, and the citizens of the State of California, for which harm they have no plain, speedy, or adequate remedy at law.
- 206. An action for declaratory relief is authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 2201(a) because an actual controversy exists as to the rights and other legal relations of the Parties.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants as set forth hereafter.

# SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION Defendants' Discharges of Pollutants without an NPDES Permit. and Clean Water Act. 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311(a), 1342, 1365(a) and 1365(f)

- 207. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations contained in the above paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 208. Baykeeper is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that storm water associated with industrial activities discharges from the HSR Facility without Storm Water Permit coverage in violation of the Storm Water Permit and/or Sections 301(a) of the Clean Water Act. 33 U.S.C. §§ 1311(a).
- 209. Every storm water discharge associated with industrial activities from the HSR Facility without NPDES permit coverage is a separate and distinct violation of the Clean Water Act and the Storm Water Permit.